



Fostering The Community, Inc.
Newington, CT
www.fosteringthecommunity.org

TESTIMONY ON SB 310

AN ACT REQUIRING THE COMMISSIONER OF CHILDREN AND FAMILIES TO SUBMIT A REPORT ON CASEWORKER RETENTION AND PERMANENCY OUTCOMES.

via email to kidtestimony@cga.ct.gov

By: **Julie Chamberland, Treasurer**

Fostering The Community

March 1, 2022

Dear Chairman Anwar, Chairwoman Linehan, Vice Chairwoman Welander, Ranking Member Senator Kelly, Ranking Member Representative Dauphinais, and Distinguished Members of the Connecticut General Assembly Children Committee:

I am writing on behalf of Fostering The Community to testify in strong support of SB 310. Thank you for allowing me to participate in the important discussion of this bill.

I am a foster and adoptive parent. I started this journey in 2007. I have had many children of all ages come through my home. Many have joyfully reunified with their biological families, and I have had the privilege to adopt four. For me, the needs of the children always come first. Foster care is not a long-term solution. It is a supportive process that helps kids to find permanency as best meets their needs.

I strongly feel that this bill should pass because children in care, birth parents, and workers need our help to make transitions happen as smoothly as possible and within an appropriate amount of time to prevent additional trauma.

Children should not be left lingering in the system for years because their case gets moved around an office. They have no say, and it is our responsibility, as adults, to keep their best interests at the top of the mind. DCF has the goal to find permanency for children in care and yet these kids are in the system for years because the caseloads are not strategically managed in a way that prioritizes permanency.

This is also not fair to the social workers that are trying to navigate through their heavy caseloads. There cannot be a one-size-fits-all for every case, child, parent, and circumstance. As a foster parent, I want permanency for every child. I want the parents to be able to reunify with their children in a timely manner. I want caseworkers to be able to handle their load and have the time to really connect and help these families meet their needs.

I know the system is not perfect, but maybe with the implementation of this bill, we can help make it a little bit better for these families and the workers.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify and for your consideration.

Julie Chamberland

